

12 February 2015

Petition: Introduction of 2 hour parking at St Michael Street Council car park

Ward St Matthew's

Portfolios: Cllr Lee Jeavons - Environment and Transport

Executive Summary:

A 1024 signature petition requesting the introduction of 2 hour parking at St Michael Street Council car park was submitted by Councillor Arif to Council on 12 January 2015. The petition was worded as follows:

The Caldmore village customers are unable to find any parking from Monday to Friday in St Michael Street Council car park in St Michael Street, Caldmore Village, Walsall. It has been observed on a daily basis that most of the parking spaces are taken by 8.30am by town centre workers before any of the local shops are open. This car park was created by the Council to help local businesses and to allow customers to park and shop locally. The business community very much appreciate the Council car park. Lack of parking is having a big impact on trade and business is being lost due to a lack of parking.

This report details the response of the Executive Director for Neighbourhood Services to this petition.

Reason for scrutiny:

The Council's petitions scheme requires that where a petition containing at least 500 but less than 1500 signatures is received by the Council, the relevant senior officer will give evidence at a public meeting of one of the Council's scrutiny and performance panels. The authority has determined that the response to such petitions must be given by either, the Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Assistant Directors or Heads of Service.

Recommendations:

That the Panel note the contents of this report.

Background papers:

None

Resource and legal considerations:

Any change to the maximum stay limit applicable to this car park would require a change to the Parking Places Order used as the basis of any enforcement activity to control its use.

Citizen impact:

Any change to the maximum stay limit of the car park could have differing impacts for differing citizens. Those looking for more short stay parking opportunities would benefit from the change whilst those reliant on long stay parking provision would be impacted in a negative way.

Environmental impact:

No impact

Performance management:

No impact

Equality Implications:


An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Consultation:

Consultation with the Council's Traffic Management and Parking Service has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

Contact Officer:

Jamie Morris - Executive Director

 01922 653203

morrisjamie@walsall.gov.uk

Report

1. St Michael Street car park currently operates as a long stay car park serving a range of business and residential parking needs within the Caldmore community. The car park provides 36 spaces, 2 of which are reserved for blue badge motorists and all are free to use.
2. The car park is located in an area of predominantly terraced properties with very limited off street parking. The car park provides the only publicly accessible opportunity for off street long stay parking provision within the vicinity of the Caldmore Road local shopping area.
3. Existing formal on street parking is provided in Caldmore Road near to the St Michael Street car park. This parking provision is restricted to a maximum of 2 hours to encourage the turnover of spaces and therefore opportunity for passing trade to park and purchase goods and services from local businesses.
4. St Michael Street car park occupancy levels have been routinely recorded over a number of years when officers attend site for maintenance inspections. This has shown varying levels of occupancy and no determinable pattern of usage.
5. Following receipt of this petition a detailed occupancy survey was undertaken on Monday 26 January 2015 and Friday 30 January 2015 between 7am and noon. The survey recorded overall number of parking occurrences, total time parked and identification of any overnight parking likely to be undertaken by local residents. The results of this survey are outlined below and demonstrate the car park provides for a mixture of short and long stay parking demand.

Survey Monday 26/1/2015

	Parked up to 1 hour	Parked up to 2 hours	Parked up to 3 hours	Parked up to 4 hours
Parked overnight and into daytime by:		3		5
Arrival 07:00 – 08:00	2			1
Arrival 08:00 – 09:00	19			10
Arrival 09:00 – 10:00	15		5	
Arrival 10:00 – 11:00	13	11		
Arrival 11:00 – 12:00	3			
Total	52	14	5	16

Survey Friday 30/1/2015

	Parked up to 1 hour	Parked up to 2 hours	Parked up to 3 hours	Parked up to 4 hours
Parked overnight and into daytime by:			1	9
Arrival 07:00 – 08:00	1	1		3
Arrival 08:00 – 09:00	26			6
Arrival 09:00 – 10:00	10		5	
Arrival 10:00 – 11:00	7	7		

Arrival 11:00 – 12:00	14			
Total	58	8	6	18

6. Of particular note was the level of overnight local resident parking that extended into day time parking beyond the requested 2 hour limit proposed in this petition.
7. It is felt that the introduction of a 2 hour maximum stay limit on the St Michael Street car park would be detrimental to the overall needs of the wider community as this would remove the only opportunity for off street long stay car parking in a publicly accessible car park. The data also suggests that there is sufficient availability of car parking spaces to meet the needs of the businesses for local shopping. For these reasons there are currently no proposals to change the maximum stay time limits applicable to this car park.